



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/509,637	06/02/2000	KALEVI AHOLA	027566-016	7880

27045 7590 05/03/2006

ERICSSON INC.
6300 LEGACY DRIVE
M/S EVR C11
PLANO, TX 75024

EXAMINER

BORLINGHAUS, JASON M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/509,637	Applicant(s) AHOLA, KALEVI	
	Examiner Jason M. Borlinghaus	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/17/06 & 2/24/06.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-11 and 13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/24/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: missing preposition, improper punctuation and unnecessary article. Claim 1 (Claim 1, line 1) claims "A method of paying calls and or services in a telecommunications network." Claim 1 should read, "A method of paying for calls and/or punctuation services in a telecommunications network." (emphasis added). Proper grammar dictates that there must be some punctuation between multiple conjunctions. Claim 1 (Claim 1, line 5) also claims "said user accounts enabling prepaid calls and or an access to various services for said users." Claim 1 should read, "said user accounts enabling prepaid call and/or an access to various services for said users." (emphasis added). In addition to the "an/or" grammatical error, the article "an" is not needed as the "said user accounts enabling...access to various services for said users."

Claims 2 – 3 and 5 – 8 are objected to by virtue of their dependency on Claim 1.

Claim 6 is object to because of the following informalities: improper punctuation. Claim 6 (Claim 6, lines 3 –4) claims "identifying an incoming call by means of A-number information." Claim 6 should read "identifying an incoming call by means of a number information." (emphasis added).

Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: improper punctuation. The "and/or" grammatical error, as discussed in regards to Claim 1, also exists in Claim 9, line 1.

Claims 10 – 11 are objected to by virtue of their dependency on Claim 9.

Art Unit: 3628

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

To ensure clarity and clear understanding of examiner's rationale for application of cited prior art, references terminology contained within parentheses indicates quoted language contained within or general concepts conveyed by said cited prior art references. Such parenthetical terminology is to be interpreted as "reading on" or being "mapped to" the claim language prior to such parenthetical inclusions.

Art Unit: 3628

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taskett (US Patent 5,991,748) in view of Cheng (US Patent 5,537,467).

Regarding Claim 1, Taskett discloses a method of paying for calls and/or services in a telecommunications network, comprising a charging controller ("service provider network or host computer system"), said charging controller having a first database with user accounts of individual users of the telecommunications network ("an account database of prepaid accounts"), said user accounts enabling prepaid calls and/or access to various services, the method comprising the steps of: (see abstract).

- accessing a loading service ("host computer system") through a user interface ("calling station"), operationally connected to said charging controller ("host system is connected to calling station"). (see col. 6, lines 45 – 57);
- loading ("transfers") into an individual user account (user "account balance") a credit amount ("selected amount of funds") via the user interface ("calling station"), wherein said loading step comprises the steps of: (see col. 7, lines 15 – 43).
- the user purchases a voucher or similar ("a prepaid card, a debit card, an American Express credit card, or other credit card associated with the calling card"). (see col. 6, lines 17 – 37);
- the user accessing the voucher or similar using an identifier provided by the voucher or similar ("expiration date of transaction card or other

information necessary for transferring funds from card to prepaid card).

(see col. 6, line 17 – 37); and

- transferring a specified value (“selected amount of funds”) of the voucher or similar to the individual user account (user “account balance”) in the first database (“account database of prepaid accounts”). (see col. 5, line 66 – col. 6, line 37 and col. 7, lines 15 – 43).

Taskett does not teach the underlined limitations - a method of paying for calls and/or services in a telecommunications network, comprising a charging controller , said charging controller having a first database with user accounts of individual users of the telecommunications network, said user accounts enabling prepaid calls and/or access to various services, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing a loading service through a user interface, operationally connected to said charging controller;
- loading into an individual user account a credit amount via the user interface, wherein said loading step comprises the steps of:
 - the user purchases a voucher or similar, wherein the value of the voucher or similar is pre-recorded in a second database;
 - the user accessing the voucher or similar record in the second database using an identifier provided by the voucher or similar; and
 - transferring a specified value of the voucher or similar record to the individual user account in the first database.

Storage of payment instrument value, such as a prepaid value or credit limit, in a payment provider database, and electronic fund transfers and/or database communication between two systems, such as between a service provider and a payment provider, is old and well known in the art of e-commerce, as evidenced by Cheng (see col. 2, lines 38 – 53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett by incorporating the ability to communicate with payment provider database, as disclosed by Cheng, as such is standard and conventional in electronic fund transfers, and Taskett “electronically” does transfer funds between two accounts. (see Taskett, Claim 4).

Regarding Claim 2, Taskett discloses a method wherein the loading into said individual user account includes:

- the user entering an individual number string (“account code”) indicated by the prepaid voucher or similar (“prepaid card”) to the loading service (“host computer”) through said user interface (“calling station”). (see col. 6, lines 45 – 54);
- said loading service (“host computer”) having access to the first database (“account database”) including said record (“data record”) defining the amount of the prepaid balance (user “account balance”). (see col. 6, lines 9 – 57); and
- transferring a desired amount of balance (“selected amount of funds”) from the payment instrument to the individual user account (user “account balance”). (see col. 7, lines 30 – 37).

Art Unit: 3628

Taskett does not teach underlined limitations - a method wherein the loading into said individual user account includes:

- transferring a desired amount of balance from the second database to the individual user account, wherein the correct record containing the pre-recorded value in the second database is indicated by means of the number string.

Storage of payment instrument value, such as a prepaid value or credit limit, in a payment provider database, and electronic fund transfers and/or database communication between two systems, such as between a service provider and a payment provider, is old and well known in the art of e-commerce, as evidenced by Cheng (see col. 2, lines 38 – 53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng by incorporating the ability to communicate with payment provider database, as disclosed by Cheng, as such is standard and conventional in electronic fund transfers, and Taskett “electronically” does transfer funds between two accounts. (see Taskett, Claim 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng to allow for any recording of information in a database that the inventor desired, such as via a number string, a character string or an alpha-numeric string. In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553, 555, 188 USPQ 7, 9 (CCPA 1975).

Art Unit: 3628

Regarding Claim 3, Taskett discloses wherein the individual user accounts are accounts which define the amount loaded by telephone number buttons, further comprises the steps of:

- an amount of pulses ("each depression of a key may signal the transfer of a predetermined increment") corresponding to the requested amount being subtracted from a database associated with the prepaid voucher or similar ("prepaid card"). (see col. 7, lines 22 – 29 and col. 8, lines 1 – 11); and
- the corresponding amount being loaded to the individual user account (user "balance"). (see col. 8, line 1 - 11).

Taskett does not teach the underlined limitations - a method wherein the individual user accounts are pulse accounts which define the balance by terms of pulses, further comprises:

- the corresponding amount of pulses being loaded to the individual user pulse account.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng to allow for any unit of measurement of the account balance and additions/subtractions to said account that the inventor desired, such as accounts measured in pulses, key depressions, minutes, dollars or time. In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553, 555, 188 USPQ 7, 9 (CCPA 1975).

Regarding Claim 5, Taskett discloses a method wherein:

Art Unit: 3628

- the user is prompted ("prompting the caller") to transfer an additional amount to the individual user account in the first database by an announcement ("warning" or "prompt") through the user interface ("calling station"). (see col. 7, line 53 – col. 8, line 5).

Taskett does not teach the underlined limitations - a method wherein:

- the user is prompted to transfer an additional amount from the record in the second database to the individual user account in the first database by an announcement through the user interface.

Storage of payment instrument value, such as a prepaid value or credit limit, in a payment provider database, and electronic fund transfers and/or database communication between two systems, such as between a service provider and a payment provider, is old and well known in the art of e-commerce, as evidenced by Cheng (see col. 2, lines 38 – 53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng by incorporating the ability to communicate with payment provider database, as disclosed by Cheng, as such is standard and conventional in electronic fund transfers, and Taskett "electronically" does transfer funds between two accounts. (see Taskett, Claim 4).

Regarding Claim 6, Taskett discloses a method further comprising the steps of:

- identifying an incoming call by means of a number ("account code") information of the user. (see col. 6, lines 44 – 59);

Art Unit: 3628

- giving a security code (“personal identification number”) of the individual user to the loading service (“host computer”). (see Claim 5); and
- giving the amount to be loaded to the user interface (“calling station”) and transmitting an indication about said amount to the loading service (“host computer”). (see col. 8, lines 1 – 11).

Taskett does not teach the underlined limitations – a method further comprising the steps of:

- announcing, from the loading service to the user interface, the new balance in the individual user account and that the transactions have been accomplished.

Announcements concerning balance and/or transaction completion are old and well known in the art of computerized transaction and banking systems. As Taskett already possesses verbal capacity (see col. 7, lines 15 – 21) and executes a step upon completion of loading account balance (see Fig. 6), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng by incorporating a balance announcement at the completion of the loading procedure to alert the user of the new post-loading balance.

Regarding Claim 7, Taskett discloses a method wherein:

- announcements to the user via the user interface are given as a text message or as a voice message (verbally “prompting the caller”). (see col. 8, lines 1 – 11).

Regarding Claim 8, Taskett discloses a method further comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 3628

- setting a time limitation ("expiration date") for the validity of the prepaid balance in the prepaid voucher or similar ("prepaid card"). (see col. 6, lines 25 – 36).

Taskett does not teach the underlined limitations - a method further comprising the steps of:

- deleting expired prepaid vouchers or similar from the prepaid or similar record in the second database.

Deleting expired and/or non-viable files from database and/or record storage is old and well known in the art of database and record management. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Taskett and Cheng by incorporating the ability to delete expired prepaid vouchers from the second database, as deletion of expire and/or non-viable files is standard record maintenance practice.

Regarding Claims 9 – 11, further apparatus/arrangement claims would have been obvious from method claims rejected above, Claim 1 – 3, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

Regarding Claim 13, further system claim would have been obvious from method claim rejected above, Claim 1, and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale.

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 3628

Regarding rejection based upon prior art, applicant's arguments with respect to pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

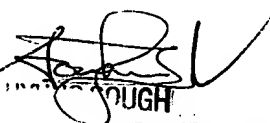
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Borlinghaus whose telephone number is (571) 272-6924. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung Sough can be reached on (571) 272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3628

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


SUFFICIENT
EXAMINED
R 360